

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 3-24 are pending in the present application, with claims 7, 8, 10, 11, and 18-20 being independent. Claim 1 has been canceled by this amendment without any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 21-24 have been added, which do not add any new subject matter.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 14 of the Office Action that claims 19-20 are allowed and that claims 7-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at least the reasons detailed below, all pending claims should be considered allowable.

***Claim Rejections***

The Examiner rejected: claims 1, 3, 6, 11-13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyama et al. (US 6,269,379) in view of Abecassis (US 6,504,990); and claims 4-5, 9-10, 14-15, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyama et al. in view of Abecassis and further in view of Vaithilingam et al. (US 6,411,724). These rejections are

respectfully traversed insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims.

Independent claim 1 has been cancelled and therefore the rejection against claim 1 is now rendered moot.

Because dependent claims 7 and 8 (which were considered as being allowable) have been amended to include the subject matter of their base claim and because dependent claims 3-6 have been amended to depend from claim 7, dependent claims 3-6 and 9 (which depends from claim 3) should now be considered allowed at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Independent claims 10, 11, and 18 have been amended to further include allowable subject matter (which the Examiner indicated as being allowable with respect to claim 8). Specifically, claims 10, 11, and 18 have been amended to recite that "the retrieval result contains an image format that includes at least one of a coding method of an image of the retrieval result, a bit rate, a frame rate, a resolution degree, and a file size." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate claims 10, 11, and 18 as being allowed.

Dependent claims 12-17 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

New claims 21-24 should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, in view of the above discussion, Applicants

respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and further the application to issue.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 

Michael K. Mutter, Reg. No. 29,680

MKM/MRG:tm  
1163-0284P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000